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JUL 16 2004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICEIn re the application of:
Alf Hammes

Docket: ZOU-1999DE507

Serial Number: 10/070,071

Group Art Unit: 1623

Filed: 06/27/2002

Examiner: Everett White

For: Low Viscous Cellulose Ethers That Flocculate in Hot Water, Method for The
Production Thereof and Their Use

OFFICIAL

NOTICE: THIS APPLICATION IS UNDER FINAL REJECTIONFAX COVER SHEETTO: Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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DATE: July 16, 2004

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EXAMINER : Everett White
GROUP : 1623

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Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed April 16, 2004, please consider the following remarks:

REMARKS

The examiner has rejected claims 1-8, 10, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Traill et al. in view of Savage. It is respectfully urged that this ground of rejection is not well taken.

The present invention relates to a process for forming low-viscosity, hot water-coagulable cellulose ethers. The application claims the depolymerization of such cellulose ethers by hydrolytic degradation. In particular the invention claims: A process for the depolymerization of hot water-coagulable cellulose ethers by hydrolytic degradation by means of acids, wherein the degradation is carried out at a temperature above the cloud point of the cellulose ether as concentrated aqueous slurry, and in addition at least one oxidizing agent is added to the concentrated aqueous slurry in an amount of between 0.05